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THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

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NEW YORK 21, N.Y.

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Dear Joshua,

Has there been any difficulty in obtaining the cultures that we talked about? I would like to have them if possible before I leave so that I might try a few preliminary experiments. The trick will be in the haploidization and will require much playing around. This after preliminary trials could be routinized in such a way that my technician would be able to carry it through while I am gone.

I've heard one bit of news of interest. Barkedale at N.Y.U. has been working on the lysogenic conversion in diphtheriae and claims that the toxin is released during the spontaneous lysis of the lysogenic cells. It is ~~also~~ also released following infection and a lytic cycle if precautions are taken to prevent its inactivation by peroxidase which is also released. This, if true, confirms a suspicion I've had since reading Terrada that the so called lysogenic conversions are nothing more than the release of substances by the lysing cells in any lysogenic culture which is adsorbed to the bacteria and account for the antigenic differences. This would be variable from culture to culture etc and may be what's behind form variation. For example Barkedale finds that the special media that were considered requisite for toxin production (Fe++ etc) are nothing more than media of varying inducing capacities. I don't have any reagents otherwise I'd test the O1 story. Do you think your O5 might be analysable in these terms.

Regards to all

Sincerely,

Hi Morton -

Actually the matter had just slipped my mind until a couple of days ago. Ann Cook is checking and working up the cultures now and expects to send them off in one or two weeks. As to lysogenic conversion, I don't think the same explanation will hold up but you want to talk to Bruce about it so he is working on it. Sorry to have been so busy.  
m E. 2.2.  
Joshua